I: Washington S-4 (no date) 1956 AF13 Northwest China AF13
Sinkiang AI1

S
N
635
186 between the Moslems and the Lamaists.

As a result of the aforesaid complexity of its geographic basis as well as its intricate historical and political background, the Northwest's population problems are as complicated as its intermingling ethnic composition. For many years, the extreme
S
635
648 northwestern province of Sinkiang suffered from continual conflict between China and Russia, although with the introduction of the Communist regime, the conflict seems at least temporarily resolved.

N
47
361
178 The development of industrialization in present day China is concentrated in the Northwest. New towns have been emerging in barren mountains and in deserts, such as Shih-yu-ho (near Yü-men), Tu-shan-tzu, (south of Wu-su) and Shih-ho-tzu on the western highway of Urumchi between the towns of Manas (Sui-lai) and Ulan-Wusu. The first two sprang up because of the drilling of promising oil wells in the Chi-lien and Tien-shan mountains.

N
647
816 The China Academy of Sciences announced in December, 1955, that in 1956 a number of new research divisions will be established in the Northwest: a Petroleum Research Bureau in Lanchow of Kansu, an Agro-biology Bureau in Wu-kung, Shensi, an Archaeological Research Bureau in Sian, a Geo-physical Research Bureau and a Veterinary Research Bureau. (Jen-min jih-pao Dec. 16, 1955, NCNA. May 11, 1956).

N
816
185
435
[648] Last November, the Northwest Branch of the China Academy of Sciences held a meeting at which, with the assistance of the Russian Korshekov an ambitious plan was formulated for the economic development of the Northwest in the coming fifteen years, with emphasis on survey of natural resources, study of petroleum and rare metals, exploitation of non-ferrous metals, agronomy, soil science and animal husbandry. In these
N
[893] discussions, the professors of three schools of higher education, the Northwest University, the Northwest Industrial College, and the Northwest Agricultural College, took an active part. (Kuang-ming jih-pao Dec. 13, 1955; NCNA. May 11, 1956).

N
161 B. General Distribution and Regional Characteristics.

The Northwest Region has an average density of 28.6 persons per square mile, as compared with the average density of 160 per square miles for the whole country. It has the smallest number in population among all the major regions of China, as the following shows:

Major Regions	Population (1953 Census)
North China	55,749,000
Northeast China	41,732,000
East China	162,682,000
Central and South China	176,331,000

I: Washington S-4 (no date) 1956 AF13 Northwest China AF13

INDUSTRY

A The Pre-Communist Period

*175 • 47 The Northwest was an industrially backward area in China. Before the Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945), over ninety percent of China's modern industrial plants were located in the coastal provinces, and very few people paid any attention to the industrial potential of this area. During the war years when the coastal provinces were lost to Japan, the importance of the Northwest greatly increased, and efforts were made to develop its industrial production in order to cope with the shortage of goods. But under the difficult conditions during the war, progress was very slow. Up to the end of 1942, the major industries in the Northwest were still limited to the manufacture of woolen, cotton and leather goods, machine tools, and flour-refining. (Handicrafts are not included, because of the lack of information.)

1. The woolen industry

*175 288 474 The woolen industry in the Northwest was distributed among the following cities: in Lanchou, Kansu, there were thirteen factories and thirteen cooperatives engaged in woolen manufacturing. The biggest one was the Kansu Woolen Weaving [491] Factory, which was built by Tso Tsung-tang in 1876 with a capital of some L. 80,000. Equipped with a 240 horsepower generator and twenty-one machine looms, it began production in 1879, turning out some twenty pieces of woolen cloth per day. But production of this factory was interrupted from time to time due to political instabilities and other reasons. It did not fully come back to life until after the Sino-Japanese War when the Ministry of War took it over and changed it into a blanket-making factory for the armed forces. The next was the [471] Lanchou Woolen Weaving Factory, which had a capital of CNC $600,000, and which produced some CNC$6,000,000 worth of goods in 1942. Another is the Experimental Factory of the Weaving Cooperatives, which turned out some CNC$5,400,000 worth of goods in the same year. The rest were on a very small scale, using only hand looms. The twenty-six woolen [433] factories and cooperatives in Lanchou had a total capital of CNC [491] $2,800,000, and they produced 95,600 army blankets, 30,400 ordinary blankets, 800 square feet fine woolen, and 1,062 pieces of other woolen cloth in 1942, the value of which was CNC$22,600,000.

In Yü-lin, Shensi, there were nineteen small factories and nine industrial cooperatives. They had 204 looms in all. But only one was power-operated, and the rest were hand looms. The output of the industry as a whole was not reported, but it is known that the raw wool which they consumed during one

315 interested in the Yümen Oil Field. In 1940, one well was completed, and a small refinery was also built in Yümen.

668 B. The Communist Period
47 The Communist government has paid special attention to
175 developing the industrial potential of the Northwest, in order to remedy the unbalanced industrial development in the past. Up to the end of 1955, the major accomplishments were as follows:

668 1. Shensi
175 The most important industrial development in Shensi under
288 the Communist regime is its textile industry According to an August, 1953, report, three new textile mills, presumably the Northwest Number 2, 3, and 4 Plants, and one dye mill were under construction in Central Shensi. At the same time, three other textile mill were expanded. When these mills are completed, the Northwest will have an additional 136,800 spindles and over 5,000 automatic looms. The total number of spindles will then be three times and the number of looms 4.4 times those of 1949. According to an April, 1955, report, the three mills have all been completed, and a Number 5 Plant, with 100,000 spindles, was under construction. By the end of 1957, the total number of spindles in Shensi will be approximately 300,000.

A sheet and towel factory, known as Huang-ho Textile Factory, was built in Sian, first of its kind in the Northwest. It is expected to supply the people in the Northwest with over two hundred thousand bed sheets and bed covers of different colors and designs and one hundred and thirty dozens of pillow cases and face towels every year. Since it started production in March 1955, it has shipped many of its products to the areas inhabited by minority peoples in Chinghai and Sinkiang.

668 In addition to the textile industry, they have built or expanded
175 the following factories in Shensi:

(386) 1. A new paint factory in Sian is supplying more than fifty different products for the country's needs. This was completed in 1953.

(256) 2. A flour mill of unidentified capacity was also built in Sian during 1953.

(395) 3. The expanded Tien Chiang Instrument Manufacturing Factory started production January 1955. Its output trebled that of 1954. The instruments they made were for geological surveys.

(339) 4. A mechanized brick factory in Sian started production in April, 1954. It will turn out nearly one hundred million bricks annually. Up to June, 1955, it has already supplied ten million bricks to the construction of buildings in Sian.